M&O
Serials
QL 671
.G84

THE GULL
MONTHLY BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY
JUN 28 1957
OF SCIENCES LIBRARY

Volume 39 Berkeley, California, July, 1957 Number 7

MAY BIRDING IN THE CHIRICAHUAS AND TUCSON REGION

May birding in the Chiricahuas east of Tuscon, under the guidance of veteran birders Harry and Betty Adamson and Peter Veitch, proved to be both thrilling and refreshing. After a rendezvous and provisioning at Tucson on the 18th we made a short afternoon stop at Cochise's Stronghold in the Dragoons and our first camp in Bonita Canyon near Headquarters of the Chiricahua National Monument. Next day in the course of a seven-mile hike through the "Wonderland of Rocks" we met the Rivoli Hummingbird, Hepatic Tanager, Painted Redstart, Grace's Warbler and Red-faced Warbler. We also marvelled at the juxtaposition of Agave, Yucca and cacti with juniper, pine, cypress, Douglas fir, madrone and several species of oaks, and at the fall look of vegetation in this dry spring season that some Arizonans call their "foresummer."

Our next overnight stop was planned for Rustler Park high up in pine forest at the 8000-foot level, where Merriam's Turkey and other mountain birds might have been seen, but lumbering operations and a cold wind moved us on down the east slope. Beautiful Cave Creek Canyon, with Forest Service campgrounds on a trickling creek, afforded us many foothill and mountain species at the 5000-foot elevation. Francis Blake and Doris Garnick had joined us by this time.

Blue-throated Hummingbirds, Bridled Titmice, Arizona Juncos and Painted Redstarts came to drink and bathe, and White-winged Doves, Arizona Woodpeckers, soft-voiced Arizona Jays, Cassin Kingbirds and Scott Orioles furnished a daytime chorus, with Elf Owls and Whip-poor-wills taking over after dark. A recently established "Southwest Research Station" of the American Museum of Natural History was visited, and a more complete picture of the Canyon's vertebrate and invertebrate fauna was gained by looking over their

collections. Then, just below camp and out of the Canyon at Portal, we met more true desert species in the mesquite thickets—Gambel Quail, Verdin, Curve-billed Thrasher, Abert's Towhee and Desert Sparrow.

We reluctantly left the Adamsons and others at Cave Creek on the 22nd to continue the search for the Coppery-tailed Trogon and Mearn's Quail (which failed to show, though they did add an Indigo Bunting). Meanwhile we looped back to Tucson via Douglas, Aqua Prieta (Sonora, Mexico), picturesque Bisbee and Tombstone. Sabino Canyon Forest Service picnic and campground just outside Tucson proved most rewarding, with Gila Woodpeckers, Vermillion Flycatcher, Cactus Wrens, Thrashers and Cardinals calling all about us, Elf Owls fluttering over our sleeping bags, and a dawn chorus we've never heard equalled elsewhere. A little later, at the Saguaro National Monument we looked out through a picture window upon a feeding-bathing scene of Gambel Quail, White-winged Dove, thrashers and towhees, cottontail rabbit and two kinds of desert ground squirrels. (There are picnic spots but no campgrounds at Saguaro as yet, but completion of "Mission 66" by the National Park Service would provide both campgrounds and a road to the higher, forested elevations within the Monument.)

After leaving Cave Creek the Adamson-Veitch party visited historic old Fort Bowie in Apache Pass, then headed southwest for Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Here, besides this cactus unique in the United States, they found beautiful vistas of Mexico just over the boundary fence. At Quitobanquito, a watering place on the old Camino Diablo, they found the Harris Hawk, Roadrunner, Lucy Warbler and Blue Grosbeak.

Our section wound up the Tucson area tour at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson Mountain Park, where we thrilled at the comprehensive live collection under cover of reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates, desert gardens, and outdoor zoo of Arizona-Sonora birds and mammals. Yes, we emphatically recommend this region for birds and cacti in May and perhaps for better wildflower displays in April — and our friends at the Cave Creek Research Station urged us to return in October for more wildflowers and for heavy bird migrations. Then there are the Catalina and Huachuca mountain ranges with cool elevations and tempting bird lists. Audubonites planning a trip should first consult local Bay Area people like the Adamsons, who have covered this southeastern Arizona region. They should also visit the Arizona State Museum on the University campus in Tucson for bird check lists and other literature, or might even write ahead for specific information to Dr. Joe Marshall or Dr. Allan Phillips of the Department of Zoology on the same campus.

— P. F. Covel, Harold Peterson, Herold Connon.

REPORT ON "BIRDING BY EAR" COURSE

The course in "Birding by Ear" given this spring by Howard Cogswell was completed on May 26 with a trip to the Central Valley and Mt. Hamilton. The five trips of the series were devoted to the orientation of the student to the approach of "finding, identifying, or studying the behavior of birds by detecting with his ears the sounds they produce and recognizing their significance." In order to maintain the quiet necessary to hear singing birds the class was limited to the first twenty-five to register. An outline of the major aspects of study of birds by means of their voices with suggestions for written "memory aids" was supplied by Mr. Cogswell. The trips were of great value to the serious birder and a complete success in every other way.

The first four half-day trips included the Tilden Nature Area and nearby places; Saint Mary's College, Moraga Valley and Redwood Canyon; Taylor State Park and Inverness Ridge in Marin County; and Searsville Lake, Jasper Ridge and the area above Stanford University. Excellent opportunities were afforded to contrast the voices of the Bewick's Wren and the Song Sparrow, the Pileolated and Orange-crowned Warbler, the Stellar's and the Scrub Jay, as well as to hear the individual songs and call notes of Lazuli Buntings, Cliff Swallows, California Purple Finches, Plain Titmice, Western Warbling Vireos, Pygmy Nuthatches, California Thrashers, Bullock's Orioles, Olive-sided Flycatchers, Swainson's Thrushes and many others.

For the fifth and last trip to the Central Valley and Mt. Hamilton ten hardy souls including the instructor went over to the San Joaquin river the night before and camped out at Gardner's Cove. Supper was cooked out of doors and sleeping bags rolled out beside the river and in the park-like area under the oaks. At dusk Great Horned Owls were seen perched by the river and flying overhead. After dark they were heard calling back and forth, nearby and in the distance.

On the 26th we breakfasted and were on our way at 5:30 a.m. In the willow thickets beside the levees we heard the varied notes of the Long-tailed Chat, the "brisk little jingle" of the Song Sparrow, and the "short phrases" of the Lazuli Bunting. Again we heard the Bewick s Wren and the Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee. Along Division Road Blue Grosbeaks were seen perched on the brown Rumex plants beside the thoroughfare.

From the river the campers drove down the valley to Patterson where they were joined by the remaining members of the class. From here we proceeded up Del Puerto Creek Valley and canyon to the San Antonio Valley and Mt. Hamilton. On the way up we saw Western Grasshopper Sparrows, whose faint

trill we could hear only the greatest concentration, and higher up on a chaparrall-covered hillside we heard and saw Bell's Sparrows.

The following list of species heard or seen, or both, on this trip speaks highly for the way it was planned by Mr. Cogswell:

The first number following the name of each species indicates the number of indiduals found in the river bottomland of the San Joaquin Valley from N.E. and E. of Vernalis to Patterson; the second number, those between the foothills W. of Patterson and Mount Hamilton, and on down the west slope of Mt. Hamilton. (All large numbers estimated.) Species starred were heard singing, or calling, in characteristic voice.

Am. Egret 1,0; Turkey Vulture 0,3; Cooper's Hawk 0,1; Red-tailed Hawk 0,7; Swainson's Hawk 1,1; Marsh Hawk 0,1; *Sparrow Hawk 6,4; *California Quail 5,20; *Ring-necked Pheasant 3,0; Am. Coot 1,0; *Killdeer 5,9; *Mourning Dove 20,150; Roadrunner 0,1; *Barn Owl 2+,6 (in 3 different holes in face of cliff); *Horned Owl 1,0; *White-throated Swift 0,2; *Black-chinned Hummingbird* 0,1(female), and 2+ ?? ones; *Anna's Hummingbird 0,6; *Red-shafted Flicker 4,3; *Acorn Woodpecker 8,20; Lewis' Woodpecker 0,5 (including pair at nest of young in San Antonio Valley); *Downy Woodpecker 2,1; *Nuttall's Woodpecker 4,7; *Western Kingbird, many, many; *Ash-throated Flycatcher 8, many; *Black Phoebe 4,8; **Say's Phoebe* 0,8 (including 4 nestlings banded); *W. Wood Pewee 4,25; *Olive-sided Flycatcher 0,2; *Horned Lark 8,6; Violet-green Swallow 0,6; *Tree Swallow, several, 0; *Rough-winged Swallow 1,0; *Barn Swallow, many, several; *Cliff Swallow, hundreds, hundreds (including colony on cliff); *Scrub Jay 4,many; *Yellow-billed Magpie 15,5; Common Raven 0,1; *Am. Crow 15,several; *Plain Titmouse 3,25; *Common Bush-tit 20, several flocks; *White-breasted Nuthatch 4,1; *Wren-tit 1,12; *House Wren 8,10; *Bewick's Wren 3,20; **Canyon Wren* 0, several (one family of fledglings, apparently); Rock Wren 0,6; Mockingbird 1,0; *California Thrasher 1,2; *Am. Robin 10,6; *(Russet-backed) Swainson's Thrush 2 (heard migrating overhead before dawn),0; *Western Bluebird 2,20; *Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 0,1; Cedar Waxwing, several,0; Phainopepla 0,1; Loggerhead Shrike 1,1; *Warbling Vireo 0,1; *Orange-crowned Warbler 0,4; *Yellow Warbler 6,10; *Yellow-throat 1,0; *Yellow-breasted Chat 3,0; *House Sparrow many, several; *Western Meadowlark many, many; *Red-winged Blackbird hundreds, several; *Tri-colored Blackbird 50,0; *Bullock's Oriole 7,6; *Brewer's Blackbird, many, dozens; *Brown-headed Cowbird several, several; *Western Tanger 1 (obviously a migrant),0; *Black-headed Grosbeak 7,30; **Blue Grosbeak* 12,0; *Lazuli Bunting 6,25; *House Finch many, many; *Am. Goldfinch several,0; *(Green-backed) Lesser Goldfich 0,12; *Lawrence's Goldfinch 0,dozens; *(Spotted) Rufous-sided Towhee 12,20; *Brown Towhee 10,30; **Grasshopper Sparrow* 0,4 (all at one location, 3½ miles W. of Patterson); *Lark Sparrow 10,dozens; *(Bell's) *Sage Sparrow* 0,4 (excellent views, both while singing and foraging); *Oregon Junco 0,15; *Chipping Sparrow 0,2; *Song Sparrow 10,4. Total, 83 species.

—BETH C. SNYDER

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Berkeley, Mrs. Ruth R. Blair, Miss Dolores Hansen, Mrs. Ruth Voss and Mrs. Madge L. York; from Oakland, Mrs. D. E. Rosenquist, Miss Roberta Park, Miss Margery Hutchison and Mr. W. J. Killen; from Orinda, Miss Jane W. Owen; from San Francisco, Mr. H. P. Livermore,

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Fuller, Mrs. E. C. Earl, Mrs. J. F. Hyde and Mr. Lyman B. Miller.

The membership count is now 874.

— JEAN L. DUNHAM, M.D., *Membership Chairman*

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The winners of the six half scholarships to the Audubon Summer Camp at Sugar Bowl Lodge are: Mr. A. K. Carragan, Science Director of the San Francisco Junior Museum; Mrs. A. K. Carragan, San Francisco elementary school teacher and Camp Fire and Girl Scout leader; Mrs. Edythe Kolkman, San Leandro, Girl Scout leader and nature group leader in youth group work of her church; Mrs. Lucile E. Smith, San Lorenzo, District Director of the Southeast Girl Scout Council (trains Girl Scout leaders in outdoor program); Mrs. Helen Blakeley, Oakland elementary school teacher and librarian; and Miss Theresa Pigati, laboratory assistant and student teacher at East Contra Costa Junior College.

— MRS. JEAN NELSON, *Chairman, Scholarship Committee*

JULY MEETING

The 478th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on July 11 after a six o'clock picnic supper at fireplace #2, Live Oak Park in Berkeley, near Shattuck and Berryman (take the F train). Fireplace #2 is across Walnut Street from the park buildings. Members who have been traveling are invited to share the highlights of their observations for the outdoor program, "Birding Far Afield." This will be followed by an indoor meeting at which Paul Covel will show some slides of wildlife typical of various life zones. Hope to see you at the fireplace!

— BONNIE SMITH, *Program Chairman.*

FIELD TRIP FOR JULY

Saturday and Sunday, July 13 and 14 — to WRIGHT'S LAKE near Echo Summit. Springtime reaches this area at about this time of year. The meadows are carpeted with flowers, the streams are rushing, there is still snow on the high granite peaks, and the birds seen last year include such beauties as Rufous and Calliope Hummers, Williamson's Sapsucker, Mountain Chickadee, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Western Tanager, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Grosbeak, and many others.

Take Highway 50 from Sacramento through Placerville to 5 miles beyond Kyburz, then a graded road leads off to the left (north) for seven and one-half miles to Wright's Lake and a Forest Service campground.

Meet at the campground at 9:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. Saturday and 8:00 A.M. Sunday. Here the group will be divided under several leaders for exploration of varying types of habitat.

Those desiring resort accommodations should be able to make arrangements through local auto clubs, as the area along Route 50 is well-traveled and there are many motels, etc.

Campers should prepare for cold nights.

— LEE STALLCUP, *Field Trips Chairman,* LO 9-3185

AUGUST BOAT TRIP

The Rowland R., Sr., has been charatered for a trip to the FARALLON ISLANDS on Saturday, August 24. This is a wondeful experience for anyone who has not been able to observe sea birds. Many members have made the trip several times and are still thrilled and excited each time.

The maximum number of passengers is 28. Those desiring reservations should send a check or money order ($8.00 per person) immediately to the Field Trips Chairman, Lee Stallcup, 6227 Buenaventura Ave., Oakland 5, as there will be only one boat chartered. The first 28 to respond will be listed and all other checks will be returned. Checks should be made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., not to the Field Trips Chairman.

More details will be in the August "Gull", and instructions will be sent out to those who remit. Leader, Harry Adamson — ATlantic 3-2164.

— LEE STALLCUP, *Field Trips Chairman,* LO 9-3185

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

President.....Paul F. Covel.....2860 Delaware Street, Oakland 2, KE 6-4120

Vice President.....Howard L. Cogswell.....Box 9486, Mills College, Oakland 13, NE 6-1573

Vice President.....Harold G. Peterson.....3548 - 65th Avenue, Oakland 5, LO 8-7534

Treasurer.....Miss Margaret J. Milwain.....731 Alma Avenue, Oakland 10, AN 1-9430

Recording Secretary.....Mrs. Roberta J. Long.....45 Clarendon Avenue, San Francisco 14, LO 4-7767

Corresponding Secretary.....Mrs. Glenn E. Hoover.....4488 Reinhardt Drive, Oakland 19, AN 1-3313

Director.....Dr. Albert Boles.....854 Longridge Road, Oakland 10, GL 1-6267

Director.....Mrs. George C. Browne.....2435 Ivy Drive, Oakland 6, TW 3-5469

Director.....Carl Fox.....616 The Alameda, Berkeley, LA 5-7000

Distribution Chairman.....Miss Alice Leet.....1050 Spruce Street, Berkeley 7, LA 4-2488

Membership Chairman.....Dr. Jean L. Dunham.....4607 Harbord Drive, Oakland 18, OL 5-1591

Editor.....Miss Ruth H. Newborgh.....1241 Evelyn Avenue, Berkeley 6, LA 5-8610

Sanctuary Fund
Chairman.....Frank A. Scott.....1508 La Loma Avenue, Berkeley 8, TH 1-0188

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, $5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, $1.00 per year.

Visit the Pacific Coast Office of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY — 2426 Bancroft Way Berkeley 4, California — TH 8-4042